

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3233

C O N F I D E N T I A L SAN JOSE 1368

FOR ASST. SECRETARY ROGERS FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP, CS

SUBJECT: FOLLOW-UP TO SECRETARY'S TRIP

REF: (A) STATE 61171; (B) STATE 54202;
(C) SAN JOSE 1166; (D) SAN JOSE 1136

1. AS REPORTED REFTEL (D), COSTA RICAN REACTION TO SECRETARY'S RECENT VISIT HAS BEEN GENERALLY POSITIVE AND WILL BE HELPFUL IN MAINTAINING FAVORABLE STATE AND HEALTHY TONE OF USG/GOVL RELATIONS. TOP GOCR OFFICIALS CONTINUE TO BE PARTICULARLY ENTHUSIASTIC. PRESS AND POPULAR REACTION DURING AND FOLLOWING TRIP WAS LESS ENTHUSIASTIC, BUT ON BALANCE FAVORABLE. IN COSTA RICAN EYES, SAN JOSE STOP DRAMATIZED ONCE AGAIN COSTA RICA'S SPECIAL POSITION IN HEMISPHERE AS SMALL DEMOCRATIC COUNTRY ENJOYING CLOSE FRATERNAL RELATIONS WITH AND THE RESPECT OF THE U.S.

2. IMPORTANT ACTION CONSEQUENCES WERE PARTLY ADDRESSED IN REFTELS (B) AND (C). TO SUMMARIZE, THEY ARE:

A. ON CUBAN INTERVENTION, AS RESULT OF SECRETARY'S VISIT, COSTA RICANS ARE REASSURED THAT U.S. WILL NOT TOLERATE CHALLENGE TO PRINCIPLE OF NON-INTERVENTION IN THIS HEMISPHERE. THEY HAVE COOLED ON DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH CUBA BUT WILL PRESS AHEAD WITH COMMERCIAL TIES.

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B. RE HEMISPHERE TRADING PREFERENCES, COSTA RICANS

SHARE THE COLOMBIAN CONCERNS. FACIO IS ACTIVELY PURSUING THIS MATTER WITH LIEVANO WITH VIEW TOWARD PRESENTING JOINT INITIATIVE.

C. MEAT: COSTA RICA IS PLEASED WITH U.S. POSITION ON HEMISPHERIC REALLOCATION SCHEME (WHICH IS CONSIDERED A COMMITMENT). COSTA RICA IS PREPARED TO SIGN VRS FOR 1976 MEAT EXPORTS.

D. UNIVERSITY TRAINING: GOCR HOPEFUL WE WILL INITIATE NEW PROGRAM TO EXPAND UNIVERSITY TRAINING PROGRAMS FOR COSTA RICAN YOUTH TO THWART RECENT COMMUNIST COUNTRY INROADS HERE. COSTA RICANS ARE PREPARING AIDE MEMOIRE.

E. COSTA RICANS RELATIVELY UNCONCERNED ABOUT "U.S./BRAZIL AXIS". AFTER INITIAL PRESS FLURRY, SUBJECT HAS DISAPPEARED FROM COSTA RICAN MEDIA. FACIO EARLY ON PUBLICLY DEFENDED AND KNOWLEDGEABLY INTERPRETED NEW U.S. BRAZILIAN RELATIONSHIP AS REASONABLE.

F. EXCHANGES DURING VISIT ON INTER-AMERICAN FOUNDATION (IAF) ARE CONSTRUED HERE AS A U.S. ASSURANCE THAT UNCOORDINATED INITIATIVES WHICH COULD TROUBLE THE GOCR WILL NOT RECUR.

3. U.S. CREDIBILITY IN COSTA RICA FOLLOWING SECRETARY'S VISIT WILL DEPEND UPON HOW WELL AND HOW MUCH WE ARE ABLE TO DELIVER ON MEAT, SUGAR (ALTHOUGH NOT RAISED), SCHOLARSHIPS, AND IAF PROJECTS. WE HAVE MADE GOOD START ON MEAT.

4. YOUR BRIEF EXCHANGE ON VESCO--ALTHOUGH NOTORIOUS EXTRADITION LAW WAS NOT MENTIONED--WAS HELPFUL IN SHOWING USG IS SERIOUS ON THIS ISSUE.

5. COSTA RICAN PAPERS HAVE FEATURED U.S. PRESS REPORTS THAT THE SECRETARY STATED AFTER HIS RETURN THAT HE HAD RAISED THE DRUG PROBLEM HERE. WOULD APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION. TODMAN
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